which was: 3710 Wabash Ave., Apt 223, San Diego, CA 92104. On or about February 2, 2011, a courtesy copy of the aforementioned documents was also served on Respondent via Certified and First Class Mail at 133 Nanita Drive, Montrose, MI 48457. The Certified Mail sent to the address of record and courtesy copy, were returned by the U.S. Postal Service with the forwarding address of 13732 Oakley Rd, Chesaning, MI 48616. On or about February 24, 2011, Respondent updated her address of record, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1409.1, to: 13732 Oakley Road, Chesaning, MI 48616. On or about was February 24, 2011, Respondent was re-served by Certified and First Class Mail copies of the Accusation No. 2011-679, Statement to Respondent, blank Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Discovery Statutes (Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7) at Respondent's new address of record which, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1409.1, is required to be reported and maintained with the Board, which was and is: 13732 Oakley Road, Chesaning, MI 48616.

- 4. Service of the Accusation was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of Government Code section 11505, subdivision (c) and/or Business & Professions Code section 124.
- 5. The aforementioned documents served to 13732 Oakley Road, Chesaning, MI 48616 were not returned by the U.S. Postal Service.
 - 6. Government Code section 11506 states, in pertinent part:
 - (c) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent files a notice of defense, and the notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all parts of the accusation not expressly admitted. Failure to file a notice of defense shall constitute a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its discretion may nevertheless grant a hearing.
- 7. Respondent failed to file a Notice of Defense within 15 days after service upon her of the Accusation, and therefore waived her right to a hearing on the merits of Accusation No. 2011-679.

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- 8. California Government Code section 11520 states, in pertinent part:
- (a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense or to appear at the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to respondent.
- 9. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Board finds Respondent is in default. The Board will take action without further hearing and, based on the relevant evidence contained in the Default Decision Evidence Packet in this matter, as well as taking official notice of all the investigatory reports, exhibits and statements contained therein on file at the Board's offices regarding the allegations contained in Accusation No. 2011-679, finds that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2011-679, are separately and severally, found to be true and correct by clear and convincing evidence.
- 10. Taking official notice of its own internal records, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3, it is hereby determined that the reasonable costs for Investigation and Enforcement is \$7,906.00 as of March 23, 2011.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

- 1. Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent Amy Sue Huss has subjected her Registered Nurse License No. 678482 to discipline.
 - 2. The agency has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.
- 3. The Board of Registered Nursing is authorized to revoke Respondent's Registered Nurse License based upon the following violations alleged in the Accusation which are supported by the evidence contained in the Default Decision Evidence Packet in this case.:
- a. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under section 2762(a) in that while she was employed as a registered nurse at UCSD, Respondent unlawfully obtained and possessing controlled substances.
- b. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under Code section 2762(e) for falsifying or making grossly incorrect, inconsistent and/or unintelligible entries in the hospital records by withdrawing medication from the Pyxis machine, charging the

withdrawal to patients who did not receive the drugs or for whom Respondent did not document administration or wastage of the drug. ORDER IT IS SO ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 678482, heretofore issued to Respondent Amy Sue Huss, is revoked. Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdivision (c), Respondent may serve a written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated and stating the grounds relied on within seven (7) days after service of the Decision on Respondent. The agency in its discretion may vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of good cause, as defined in the statute. This Decision shall become effective on It is so ORDERED May DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 80478047.DOC DOJ Matter ID:SD2011700176 Attachment: Exhibit A: Accusation

Exhibit A

Accusation

i	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
. 1	KAMALA D. HARRIS
2	Attorney General of California LINDA K. SCHNEIDER
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General NICOLE R. COOK
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 263607
5	110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100
	San Diego, CA 92101 P.O. Box 85266
6	San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2143
7	Facsimile: (619) 645-2061 Attorneys for Complainant
8	BEFORE THE
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11	
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 2011-679
13	AMY SUE HUSS
	133 Nanita Drive A.C.C.U.S.A.T.I.O.N
14	Montrose, MI 48457
15	3710 Wabash Ave., Apt. 223 San Diego, CA 92104
16	Registered Nurse License No. 678482
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18	Respondent.
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20	Complainant alleges:
21	<u>PARTIES</u>
22	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her
23	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of
24	Consumer Affairs.
25	2. On or about April 28, 2006, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nurse
26	License Number 678482 to Amy Sue Huss (Respondent). The Registered Nurse License was in
27	full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on October
. 28	31, 2011, unless renewed.
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JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 5. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license.
- 6. Section 2811(b) of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

7. Section 2761 of the Code states:

The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- (a) Unprofessional conduct
- 8. Section 2762 of the Code states:

In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

(a) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or prescribe, or except as directed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist administer to himself or herself, or furnish or administer to another, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022.

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COST RECOVERY

9. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

<u>DRUGS</u>

10. Oxycodone, also sold under the brand name OxyContin, is a Schedule II controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b)(1)(N), and is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 11. Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at University of California Medical Center (UCSD) Thorton Hospital in La Jolla, California, from January 2006 through December 2007. On or about November 24, 2007, the charge nurse at UCSD discovered that Respondent failed to administer Oxycodone to three of her patients even though she had documented administration of the medication. All three of her patients denied receiving the medication. An internal investigation ensued and the following discrepancies were discovered:
- 12. Patient 1: On November 24, 2007 at 1959 hours, Respondent withdrew 2 tablets of Oxycodone 5 mg from the Pyxis¹ machine for this patient. Respondent failed to document administration of the medication on the patient's Medication Administration Record (MAR) and there is no record of wastage. Therefore, 2 tablets of Oxycodone are unaccounted for.
 - 13. <u>Patient 2:</u> There were four discrepancies attributable to this patient as follows:
- a. On November 23, 2007 at 2022 hours, Respondent withdrew 2 tablets of Oxycodone 5 mg from the Pyxis machine for this patient. Respondent failed to document

¹ Pyxis is a trade name for the automatic single-unit dose medication dispensing system that records information such as patient name, physician orders, date and time medication was withdrawn, and the name of the licensed individual who withdrew and administered the medication. Each user/operator is given a user identification code to operate the control panel. Sometimes only portions of the withdrawn narcotics are given to the patient. The portions not given to the patient are referred to as "wastage." This waste must be witnessed by another authorized user and is also recorded by the Pyxis machine.

administration of the medication on the patient's MAR and there is no record of wastage. Therefore, 2 tablets of Oxycodone are unaccounted for.

- b. On November 24, 2007 at 0052 hours, Respondent withdrew 2 tablets of Oxycodone 5 mg from the Pyxis machine for this patient. Respondent failed to document administration of the medication on the patient's MAR and there is no record of wastage. Therefore, 2 tablets of Oxycodone are unaccounted for.
- c. On November 24, 2007 at 0440 hours, Respondent withdrew 2 tablets of Oxycodone 5 mg from the Pyxis machine for this patient. Respondent failed to document administration of the medication on the patient's MAR and there is no record of wastage. Therefore, 2 tablets of Oxycodone are unaccounted for.
- d. On November 24, 2007 at 2032 hours, Respondent withdrew 2 tablets of Oxycodone 5 mg from the Pyxis machine for this patient. Respondent failed to document administration of the medication on the patient's MAR and there is no record of wastage. Therefore, 2 tablets of Oxycodone are unaccounted for.
- 14. On or about December 5, 2007 during a meeting between Respondent, the Director of Nursing, and the Director of Administrative Services at UCSD, Respondent admitted that she diverted controlled substances for self use and agreed to participate in a treatment program.
- 15. In a letter to a Division of Investigation investigator for the Board, Respondent admitted that she entered the Board's Diversion Program in January 2008, but was terminated prior to completion due to health problems.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct - Obtain Controlled Substances Unlawfully)

16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under section 2762(a) in that while she was employed as a registered nurse at UCSD, Respondent obtained and possessing controlled substances unlawfully as is more particularly set forth in paragraphs 11 through 15 above, and incorporated herein as though set forth in full.

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SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct - Falsify or Make Grossly Incorrect or Inconsistent Entries)

17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under Code section 2762(e) for falsifying or making grossly incorrect, inconsistent and/or unintelligible entries in the hospital records by withdrawing medication from the Pyxis machine, charging the withdrawal to patients who did not receive the drugs or for whom Respondent did not document administration or wastage of the drug as is more particularly set forth in paragraphs 11 through 15 above, and incorporated herein as though set forth in full.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 678482, issued to Amy Sue Huss;
- 2. Ordering Amy Sue Huss to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
 - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 2/2/11

LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED., RY

Executive Officer

Board of Registered Nursing

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant